

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of Congress who are deeply committed to repairing our broken immigration system, we would like to express our strong support for moving forward on fair and humane comprehensive immigration reform this year. It is imperative that we develop a practical solution that will regain control over the broken immigration system, strengthen the economy, and move this country forward. We must reaffirm America's tradition as both a nation of laws and a nation built on the strength of immigrants.

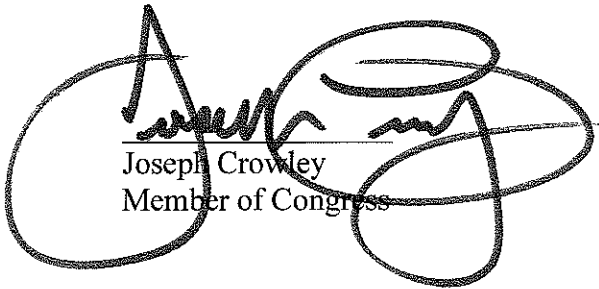
We all agree that our immigration system is broken and in desperate need of repair. We have an outdated immigration system, divided families and communities, and ineffective enforcement strategies. We must move forward with a commonsense, American solution that secures the border, protects the rights of all workers, and modernizes our legal immigration programs. A key element of this reform is requiring all undocumented immigrants to register, go through background checks, pay taxes, and study English in order to obtain legal status and be eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

This comprehensive approach will not only secure our borders, level the playing field for workers, and stop dishonest employers from gaining an unfair advantage, but it will bring in critical revenue by integrating more people into the economy as workers, taxpayers, and consumers. The other options – maintaining the status quo or trying to force 12 million undocumented immigrants to leave the country – are neither viable nor desirable.

We know you agree that action must be taken and we applaud you for starting the discussion on immigration reform by hosting a bicameral and bipartisan meeting on June 25th. Your leadership on this issue is invaluable, but please know we stand ready to help you.

The American people expect Congress and the White House to advance real solutions on this important challenge. Reforming our immigration system is not only about recognizing and honoring the contributions of immigrants to our country, both past and present, but about better protecting our nation, our communities, and our families. We look forward to working with you to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year.

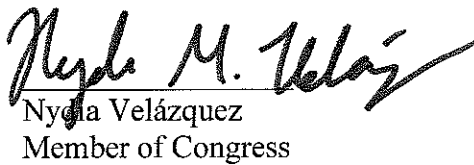
Sincerely,



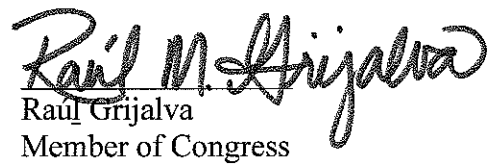
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



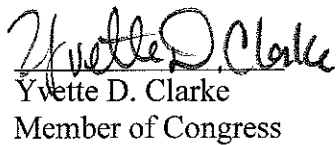
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



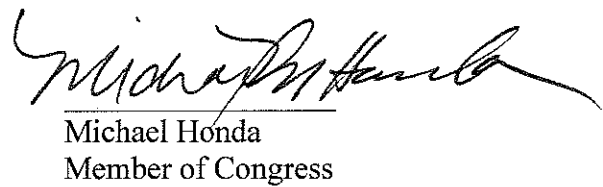
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



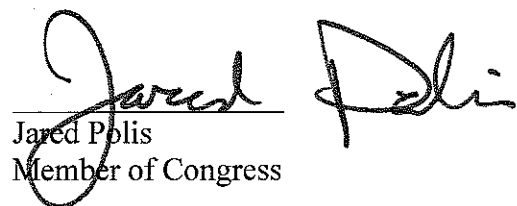
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



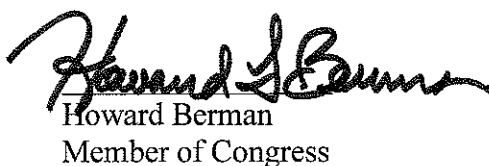
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



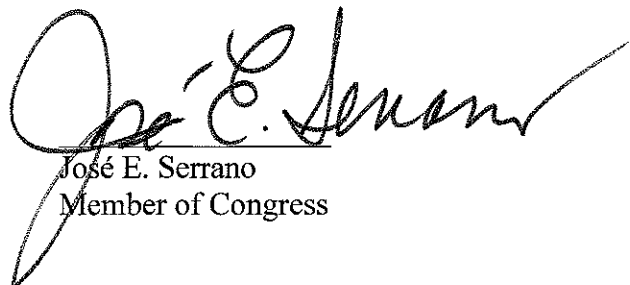
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



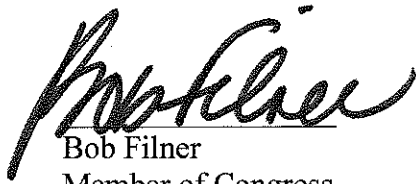
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



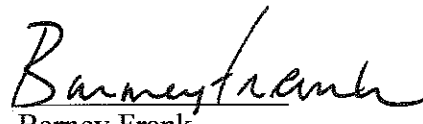
Howard Berman
Member of Congress



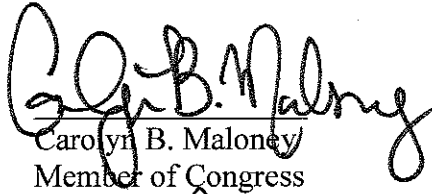
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



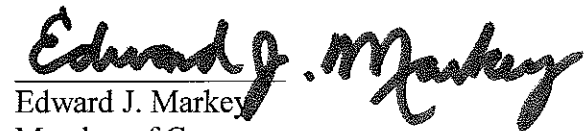
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



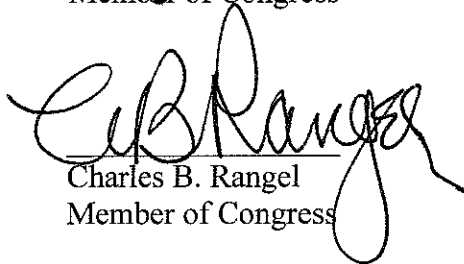
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



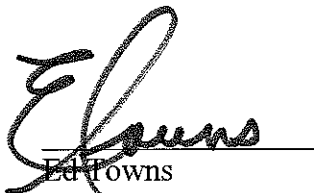
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



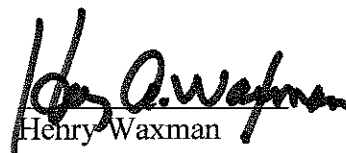
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress




Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



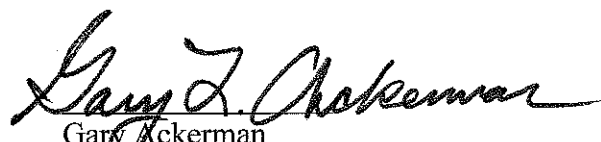
Ed Towns
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress




Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



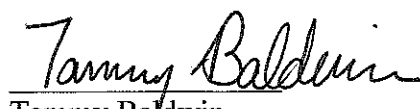
Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress




Rob Andrews
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



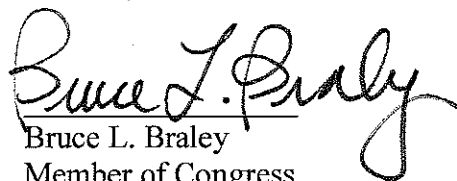
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress



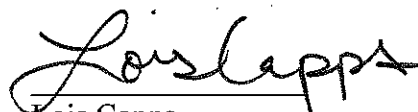
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress



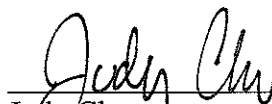
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



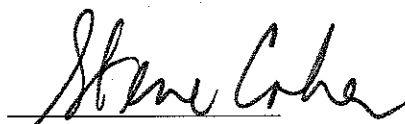
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



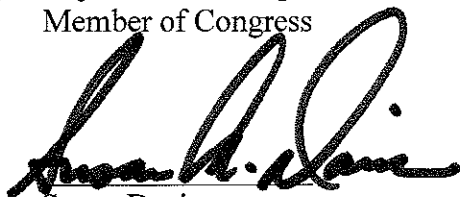
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



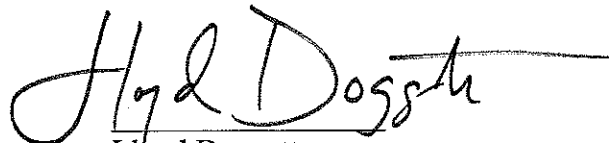
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



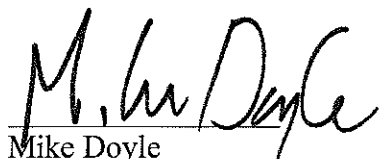
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



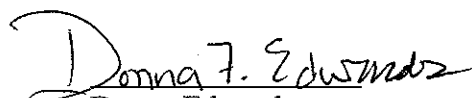
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress




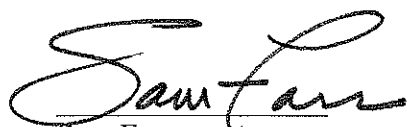
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

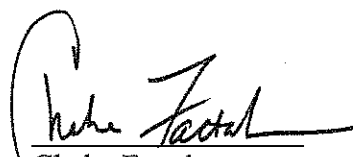

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

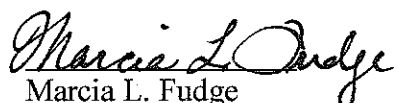

Steve Driehaus
Member of Congress

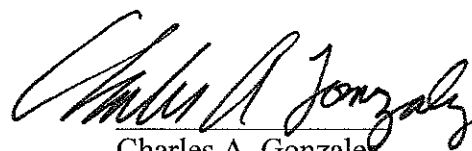

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

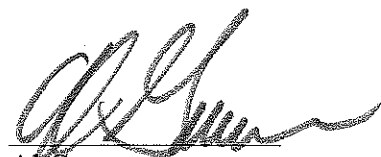

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

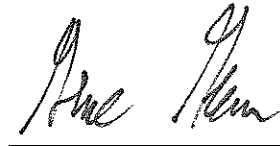

Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress

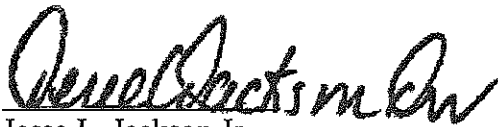

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



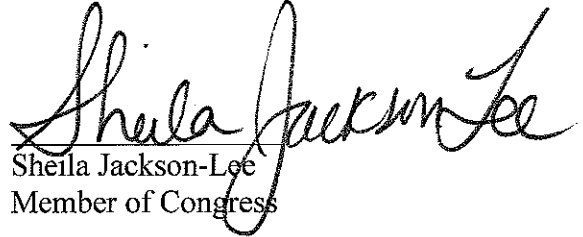
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



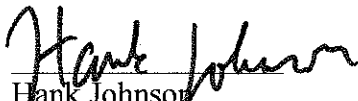
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



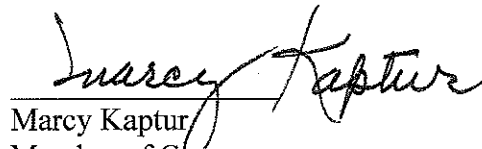
Jesse L. Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



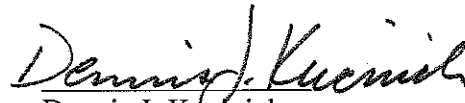
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



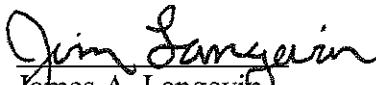
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



James A. Langevin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress




Eric Massa
Member of Congress



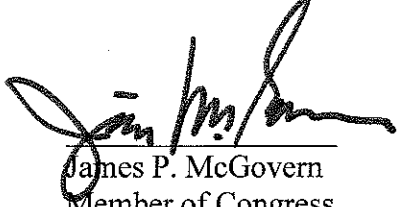
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



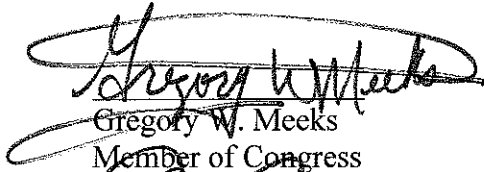
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



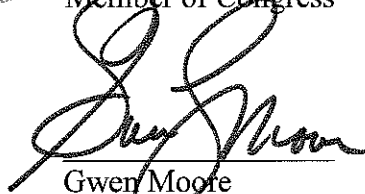
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



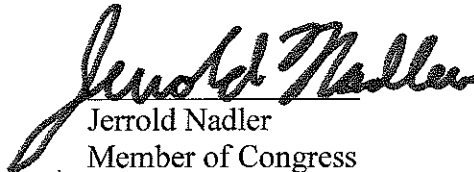
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



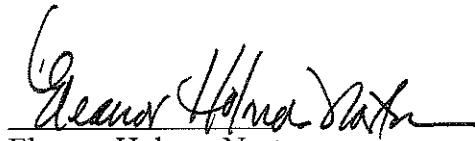
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



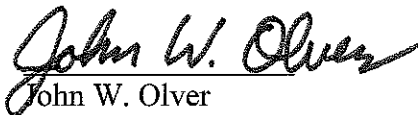
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



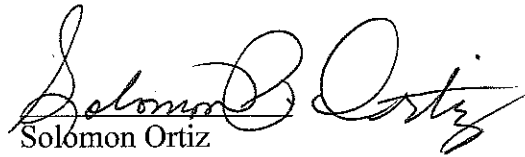
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



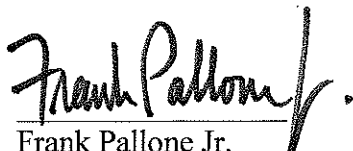
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John W. Olver
Member of Congress



Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



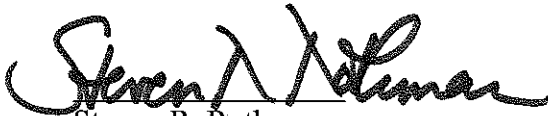
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



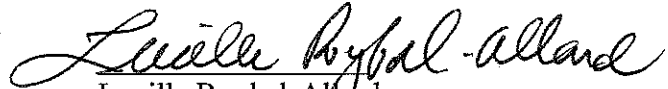
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



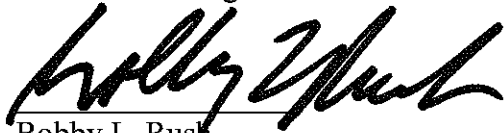
Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress



Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



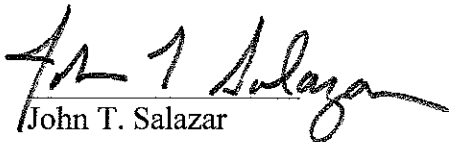
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



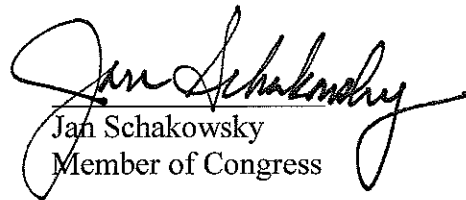
John T. Salazar
Member of Congress




Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress




John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



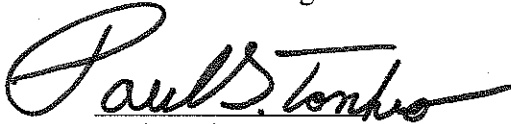
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



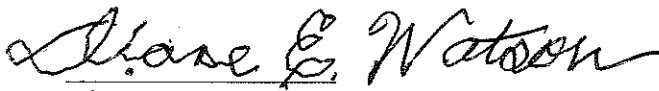
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



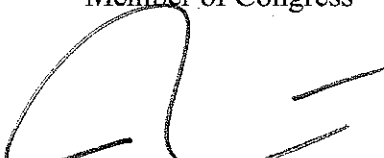
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress




Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



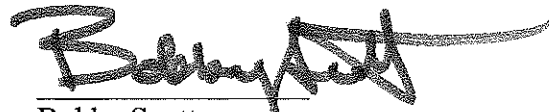
Diane Watson
Member of Congress



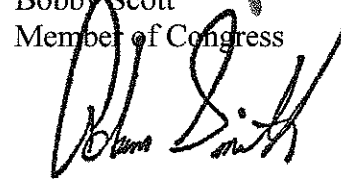
Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



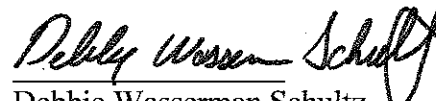
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress



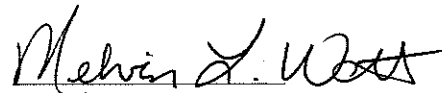
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



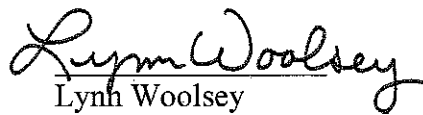
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress




Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



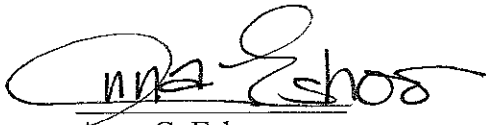
Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress



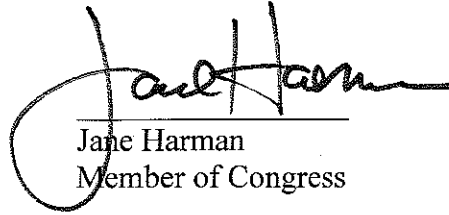
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Anna G. Eshoo in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'A' and 'E'.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jane Harman in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'J' and 'H'.

Jane Harman
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Daniel B. Maffei in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress